CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic)	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	New Soviet Destroyer Type Sighted in the Gulf of Finland	DATE DISTR.	25 January 1955
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In June 1954, a new destroyer type, flying the Soviet flag 25X1
was sighted in the Gulf of Finland. The following characteristics of the vessel were determined: 25X1

a. Size and Design

(1) The general design of the vessel appeared to be a development of the standard Soviet destroyer type, with an after stack between the batteries. Its outward appearance may have been influenced by the coastal destroyer PRIMERNYY (ex-German T-33), although the over all design, as reflected in the shape of the bridge and arrangement of the armament, engines, and boiler, was new.

(2) Displacement was probably not essentially greater than that of the standard type. The vessel was about 120 meters in length and 12 meters in the beam. The draft was not more than 3.7 meters and the molded depth about 7.5 meters. This would indicate a displacement of approximately 2,600 tons, the block coeffieient being set at 0.48.

(3) The destroyer presented a very low silhouette as a consequence of the shortening of the stacks and elimination of the forecastle. These measures lowering the position of the ship's center of gravity were evidently intended to counterbalance the large top weight created by the highly developed fire control station and the main battery, which had its twin guns enclosed in turrets. The same intention was evident in the figuration of the amidships and after sections, where superstructures were nearly non-existent. The director was about 16 meters, and the bridge 11.5 to 12 meters, above the waterline.

(4) The bridge superstructure forward of the foremast covered a wide portion of the beam. The lower bridge section was flush with the front of the superstructure. The upper station, probably the battle and torpedo control position, was open on top; the sides were fitted with sponson-like platforms provided with ribs for better wind flow.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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(5) The bow frames were not quite so steep, and had a wider flare than those of the SKORYY-Class destroyer, an alteration probably intended to increase the seaworthiness of the vessel.

(6) The adoption of the flush-deck design resulted in a molded depth somewhat greater than that of standard destroyers. This feature increased the longitudinal solidity of the hull and permitted higher engine and boiler compartments. From the stern, the deck line ran parallel to the waterline until it reached the forward edge of the bridge, from which it rose toward the stem, where the freeboard was about one and one-half times that of the amidships section.

(7) The sharp edge of the projecting forward frames, resulting at the juncture of sheer strake and deck stringer from the bow to the forward stack, had been cut away by a vertical strip of plate about 40 centimeters wide (sic). This figuration presumably improved the static conditions between deck and skinplating and eliminated narrow angles difficult of access.

b. Armament

(1) The main battery consisted of two sets of twin guns of 120 to 130 millimeter caliber protected by light turret-like shields. Loopholes in the shields allowed considerable elevation of the guns, thus permitting their use against airborne targets and land targets behind shelters. On the right side, the gun shields mounted radar sets, and the opening for an optical sighting device was visible on the left side. The guns were probably mounted in the forward section of the turret. To each gun was attached a vertically arranged pair of disks which protected the oblong loopholes against water and wind. The gunner's seat was beside the outer disk. When in action, the guns were probably normally coupled. The turret appeared spacious enough to permit loading operations and ejection of cartridge cases even when the guns fired at large quadrant elevation. The firing arcs of the two turrets were large and favorably arranged. The two turrets forward and aft fired independently.

(2) A noteworthy feature of the destroyer's design was that, unlike destroyers of the SKORYY Class, it had only one director. This consisted of a base like a truncated cone, surmounted by a spherical section similar to the AA fire control stations characteristic of the SVERDLOV-Class cruiser, possibly indicating that the director was gyro-stabilized. The front side of the director showed a radar reflector for angle of training and distance, an optical rangefinder, and an aiming mechanism under a hood. A second radar reflector was mounted on a projecting bracket attached to the base of the director. If the director was stabilized, equipment probably took up so much weight that the possibility of mounting a second director was ruled out. The spacious lookout station at the head of the mast abaft probably could not be used for fire control purposes because of the interference from smoke from the stacks.

(3) The new destroyer apparently had no AA protection. The shields on the upper edge of the gunwale above the pendant number and in line with the after stack indicated, however, that medium AA guns would be mounted there. Platforms about 80 centimeters high, which may have been designed for automatic AA guns of medium caliber mounted on multiple gun carriages, were located in the conspicuously large spaces between the forward turret and the bridge, and between the after stack and the rear side of the after turret. Two ammunition hoists were also located in the forward space and four in the after space.

(4) The torpedo armament of the new destroyer consisted of two quintuple torpedo tubes mounted between the stacks, provided with stations for the torpedo gunner's mates. The design followed the German pattern. The bridge aiming devices had apparently not yet been mounted.

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(5) On each side of the after section of the vessel, there were mine rails. There was a mine launching slip at the stern, which was designed as a broad transom stern similar to that in the older destroyer types. The new destroyer could probably carry 80 mines. Devices for dropping depth charges were located on both sides of the stern.

c. Radio Equipment

The radar station on the forward mast, unlike that on the other destroyer types, was designed as a pole mast. Two larger radar sets and a radar search receiver were visible.

d. Machinery and Equipment

(1) The craft was evidently equipped with separate power plants for the port and starboard engines. The forward engine was located below the torpedo tubes, the after engine abaft the stack, an arrangement which would allow the functioning of two independent units in action. There was a superstructure between the two groups of torpedo tubes which probably housed the ventilators for the forward engine. Ventilators were also visible at the rear edge of the second stack.

(2) Following the German pattern, the two anchors did not rest in hawses but lay on the forecastle. A windscreen was attached to the forward section of the jackstaff. On the port side of the vessel, in line with the forward mast, there was a boat crane, and two boats were visible resting on boat beams. Similar equipment was presumably located on the ship's starboard side.

e. Miscellaneous

The appearance of the new destroyer indicated that it was designed for operation mainly in coastal waters and would be valuable as a mine carrier. The bow wave and the form of the waves produced by the ship, in conjunction with the irregular appearance of the smoke, suggested that the maximum speed of the craft was being tested during the period of observation.

Enclosure: 5 photographs of new Soviet destroyer (Navy - 1, OCD - 1)

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DESTROYER

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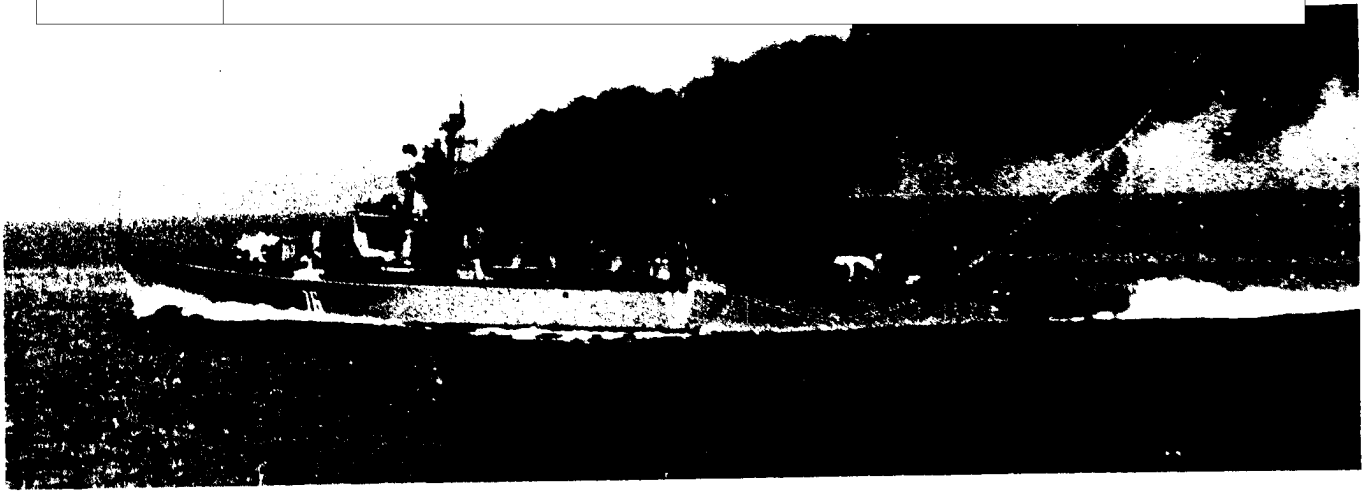

Soviet Destroyer [redacted] in the Gulf of Finland

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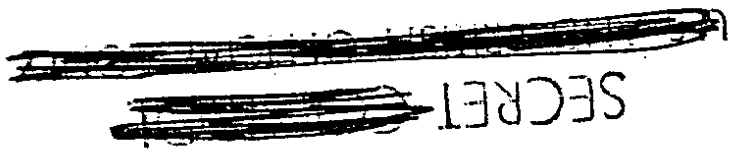

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Soviet Destroyer [redacted] in the Gulf of Finland

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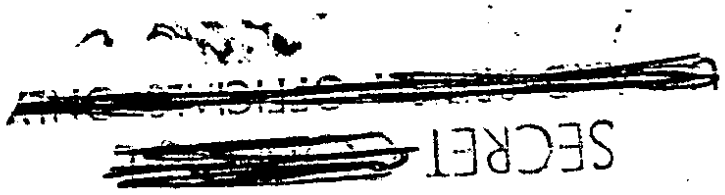

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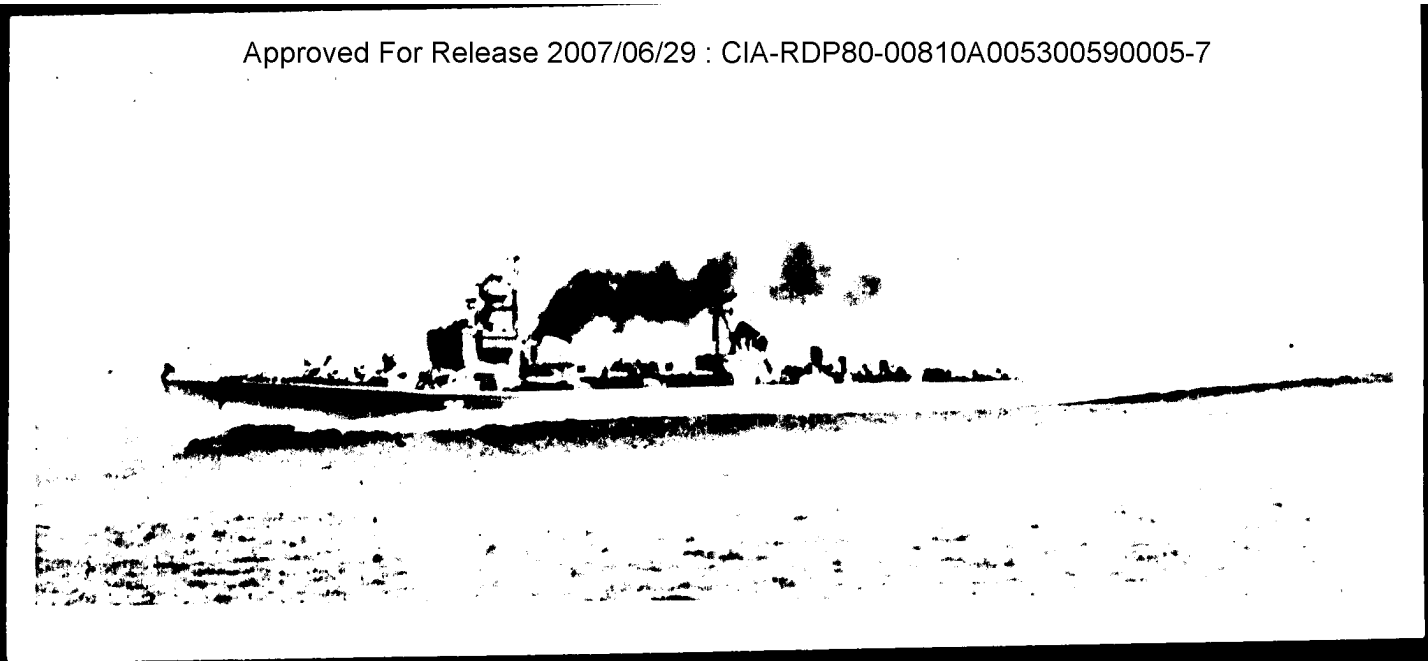

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oviet Destroyer [redacted] in the Gulf of Finland

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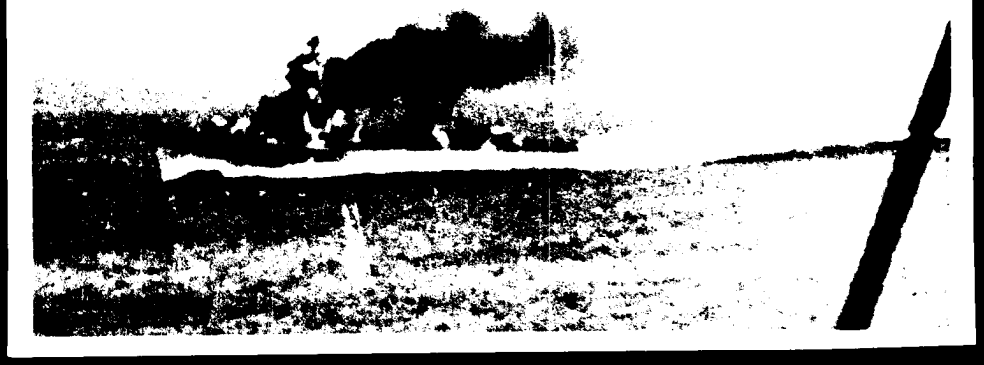

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Soviet Destroyer [redacted] in the Gulf of Finland

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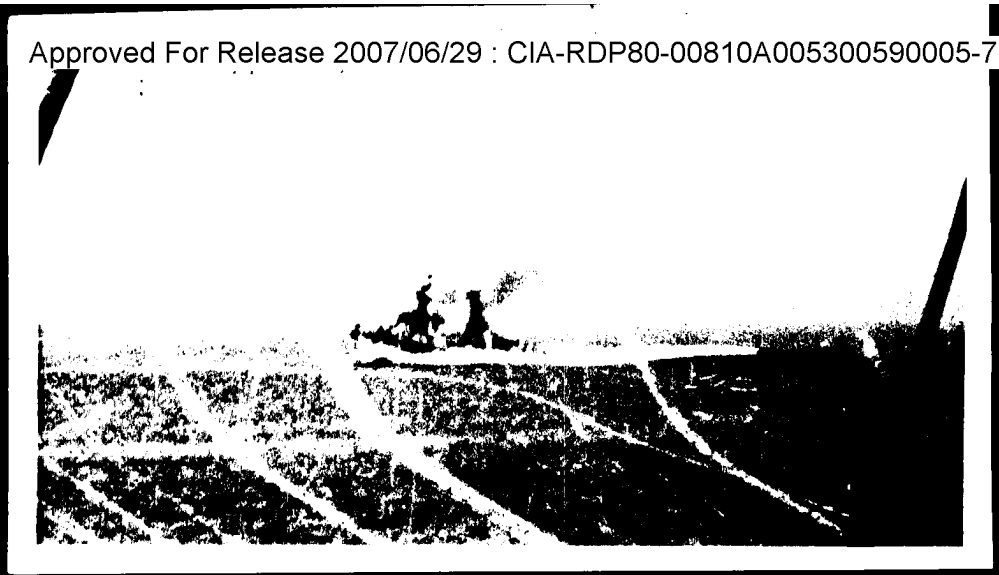

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Soviet Destroyer [redacted] in the Gulf of Finland

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